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The current status of FMD control measures in South Africa

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Report Highlights:

On January 13, 2015, the South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) held a media conference to update relevant stakeholders on the current status of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) control measures in South Africa and furthermore provided details on how DAFF will guard against any challenges that could threaten the country's FMD free zone status as determined by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

The current status of FMD control measures in South Africa

On January 13, 2015, the South African Department of Agriculture Forestry & Fisheries, hosted a press conference to announce and outline the launch of their FMD awareness campaign, “Operation Compliance” (please follow this link to the text of the Minister Senzeni Zokwana’s speech [FMD Press Release](#) and for background information on South Africa’s FMD status refer to the following GAIN report: [OIE Renews South Africa's FMD-Free Status](#))

The media event was well attended by the local press and members of the South African Red Meat Industry. While the media event was carried out in an open and collegial atmosphere, there was no mention or reference to the United States as being an important trade partner in livestock. The Minister’s speech indicated that game meat to the European Union (see also [SA hopes to renew meat sales to EU](#)) and beef to the Middle East were lucrative markets for South Africa prior to the 2011 FMD outbreak and are markets where South Africa is currently negotiating market access. During the Question and Answers session of the event there were also many references made regarding trade with China and other BRICs countries. The South African livestock industry has indicated it wishes to export to the United States. However, DAFF has not sent USDA requested information needed to recognize South Africa’s FMD-free status.

Prior to 2011, DAFF requested to have certain regions of South Africa recognized as FMD free. The recognition of regionalization from the US had to be halted due to the 2011 FMD outbreak in South Africa. The US Department of Agriculture has been working with the South African Government to obtain the necessary information for the US to continue the regionalization.

The press and industry present inquired about: the number of cattle requiring vaccination, the availability of vaccines, South Africa’s ability to produce vaccines, the regionalization of vaccine production, the availability of CVOs in the Provinces to vaccinate, prioritizing the eight areas for immediate attention, the time line for accomplishing these task, border controls, cattle theft, farm tensions and killings, and the overall longer term Animal Health Program.

It was clear from DAFFs responses that they are in the early stages of rolling out this new initiative and that it will consume a lot of their time and resources.